



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

Preventing

environmental

damage from

hazardous waste,

and restoring

contaminated

sites for all

Californians.



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, May 2006

Changes to the Cleanup Plan at the Almaden Quicksilver County Park is Available for Review and Comment

We would like to inform you that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing additional soil removal activities at the Almaden Quicksilver County Park (Site) located at 21785 Almaden Road, San Jose, California 95120.

In May 1994, DTSC sent the surrounding community a fact sheet describing a proposed cleanup plan for the Site, known as the draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP). DTSC approved the RAP in December 1994 after consideration of public comments received during a 30-day public comment period. Work began shortly after to remove approximately 43,000 cubic yards of the contaminated soil caused from former mercury mining activities. The removal activity was stopped when the California Red-Legged Frog's habitat was impacted by the soil removal. The removal of additional contaminated soil will help restore the habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog, eliminate Mercury contamination from entering the San Francisco Bay, and return the full use of the Park to the community.

This removal is described in an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document. The ESD document identifies the changes from the 1994 RAP and describes the remedy. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration describes the reasons that a proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The ESD, Initial Study, and Negative Declaration are available in the information repositories listed on page three of this fact sheet.

If have any questions regarding the Final RAP, ESD, Initial Study, or Negative Declaration, please contact Mr. Edgardo Gillera at (510) 540-3826.

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the proposed ESD, Initial Study, and Negative Declaration. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning May 9, 2006 and ending on June 7, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on June 7, 2006. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Edgardo Gillera, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
or e-mail Egillera@dtsc.ca.gov



The Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County will become the lead agencies regarding the removal of the remaining cleanup. DTSC provided oversight during the previous investigation and cleanup at the Site.

Site History

Mercury is a heavy, silvery-white, liquid metal. Mercury occurs primarily in the mineral cinnabar. Cinnabar is the distinctive bright red ore of mercury. Ore is a rock containing minerals making it valuable for mining.

Mercury mining and ore processing were conducted at the Site from 1945 to 1975. Several mines were located on the Almaden Site: Enriquita Mine, San Mateo Mine, Senator Mine and Mine Hill. Cinnabar ore was removed from these mines and heated in furnaces to extract mercury. After the mercury was removed, the processed ores, called calcines, were dumped near the processing areas at the various mines contaminating the soil. All calcine from Enriquita, San Mateo, and Senator Mine have been removed. The cleanup of the Hacienda Furnace Yard Area still remains and is part of this removal action (see map on page four).

Final Remedial Action Plan

The 1994 RAP cleanups focused on calcines at Hacienda Furnace Yard, Mine Hill Area, Enriquita Mine Retort, San Mateo Mine Retort, and Senator Mine Area. The Site remedy consisted of on-site containment measures to prevent human exposure and further release of mercury to surface waters. The primary components of the remedy was removal of calcines and mercury impacted soils from the Hacienda Furnace Yard and Senator Mine areas, and consolidation and capping of calcines and mercury impacted soils in the Mine Hill area of Almaden Quicksilver County Park. Other components of the remedy were construction of surface drainage ditches and erosion control improvements.

The 1994 RAP work also consisted of the removal of 42,550 cubic yards of soil excavated from the Hacienda Furnace Yard and Mine Hill areas of the Park. However, a portion of the calcine pile, approximately 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards, was left in place within the Hacienda Furnace Yard Area. Calcines from this area were not removed due to the California Red-Legged Frog habitat. A

revision to the remedial design was required to minimize impacts to the frog and its habitat.

The remediation work at these areas was completed as of September 1999.

Description of Explanation of Significant Differences

The ESD describes the removal of the remaining 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards of calcine material from three locations within the Hacienda Furnace Yard Area: Upper Hacienda, Lower Hacienda, and Deep Gulch.

The ESD also describes removal of an additional 15,000 cubic yards of calcine material that was identified after implementation of the 1994 RAP. The newly identified calcine material is located within the Jacques Gulch area of the Park at two locations: Location A, which extends from the culvert beneath Alamitos Road at the confluence of the Almaden Reservoir in the Park, and Location B, which is located in the Park and upstream from Location A, towards the Mine Hill area (see map on page four).

All the excavated material will be transported and consolidated in the "San Francisco Open Cut" portion of the Mine Hill area of the Park.

Details of the work to be conducted will be outlined in the Project Implementation Plan. You will receive a notice in the mail notifying you that the Project Implementation Plan is available for your review in the information repositories listed on page three.

Implementation of the activities will be coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game.

The proposed change is not expected to result in a significant change in the total cost of remediation. Total cost for the proposed project is estimated to be \$1.3 million. Overall cost for the original remedial action was \$4.6 million. An updated Health and Safety Plan will be prepared in accordance with current state and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

California Environmental Quality Act - Initial Study/Negative Declaration

An Initial Study was conducted by DTSC to determine if the additional soil removal activities would have a significant effect on the environment. A determination has been made that the additional removal would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, DTSC has prepared a Negative Declaration for this project. The proposed Initial Study and Negative Declaration are also open for public review and comment.

For more Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the ESD, please contact Edgardo Gillera, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3826 or by e-mail at

Egillera@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding the public participation process, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or toll-free at (866) 495-5651 or by e-mail at

Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732 or by e-mail at

Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the removal of the remaining calcine deposits at the Site, please contact one of the following individuals:

Mohamed A. Assaf, P.E.
Manager, Construction Services Division
Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation
Department
298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669
(408) 355-2208

David Drurry
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686
(408) 265 2607 ext. 2721

Information Repository

The final Remedial Action Plan, Explanation of Significant Difference, Initial Study, and Negative Declaration may be viewed at the following location:

San Jose Public Library

Almaden Branch

6455 Camden Avenue
San Jose, California 95120
(408) 268-4600

Department of Toxic Substances Control

700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, California 94710
File Room:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

By appointment only (510) 540-3800

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315 or (866) 495-5651

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

THE ALMADEN QUICKSILVER COUNTY SITE MAP

